Volume XVI Chicago, Ill., October, 1939 Number 7

The Liberalist

Don't waste life in doubts and fears; spend yourself on the work before you, well assured that the right performance of this hour's duties will be the best preparation for the hours or ages that follow it.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

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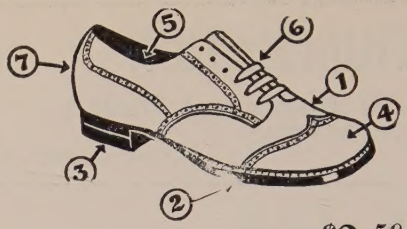

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The Liberalist

Preston Bradley ..... Editor

Grace Thayer Bradley ..... Associate Editor

Volume XVI Chicago, Ill., October, 1939 Number 7

Meditation

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"Infinite Heart, we are very grateful with a gratitude beyond articulation, that after the weeks and the months which have passed since last June and after all the respective highways and individual paths that we have all taken, once again on this beautiful morning, this morning of coolness, of brilliant skies, of happy faces, we can come to the sacred place which for these years has become increasingly precious to those of us who have learned to love it, and so our hearts leap with the morning beauty to express this gratitude, and yet our gratitude is tinctured, aye, it is fully saturated with a deep understanding that there are many hearts here who have been touched with a loneliness due to the loss of loved ones and friends and companions. Then there are others that these summer weeks have dealt badly with, and there is very little gratitude and very little joy in their hearts and we would share with them every tinge of sorrow, every moment of their despair.

And now that we have united ourselves together for the beginning of our winter's work, let us all humbly and with a contrite heart dedicate anew and afresh our minds and our hearts and lives to the projection of brotherhood and peace. And we cannot forget in a thousand thousand pulpits and altars around the world today those men, leaders and spiritual mentors, who are seeking to hold a broken-hearted, devastated humanity integrated and together until the storms of hate have spent their fury, and dignity and peace have come back again.

Keep this Church true to its ideals, keep its people and its pastor at all hazards and at whatever cost, true to the ideals of humanity and love. In this moment we dedicate, we reconsecrate the hallowed responsibility before us with the certainty that we need Thy strength and Thy help as never before, and may every heart here and every heart out there listening feel on this significant Sunday when our ears are reverberating with the cries of dying men and the broken hearts of women and the crushed hopes of youth, that somehow this thing must stop.

To the high purpose in our own lives we dedicate all we are for the cause of brotherhood and of peace, and we do it in the name and under the inspiration of one who must be broken-hearted today as he watches from the battlements of eternity a world smashing with hate and greed, the gentle, loving humanitarian, brother of all the world, who prayed:
"Our Father, who art in heaven,"
etc.

"IS CIVILIZATION DOOMED?"

Sermon by Dr. Preston Bradley, Pastor of The Peoples Church of Chicago
September 17, 1939

•

"The scene is in London; the day an early one in August, the year, 1914; a tall man, somewhat stooped, his rugged face deeply lined with the furrows of responsibility, stands at the window of the Office of Foreign Affairs in Westminster, his name is Earl Gray, now numbered among the dead; it is growing dusk, evening shadows are lengthening across London; from around the corner of St. James' there comes a lamp lighter. He walks down the street performing his necessary but lowly task. Earl Gray, with his associates in the Foreign Office, stand and watch this lamp lighter on this August evening twenty-five years ago, he turns to his friends and say: 'The lights of Europe are going out tonight and we shall not see then lighted again in our time.'

My dear friends, and my beloved people of this Church, never in the 27 years past, and on the threshold of the twenty-eighth before us, has your pastor ever stood before you on any occasion feeling more deeply the responsibilities of this task of mine. Every man who writes, every editor, every correspondent, every commentator, every preacher, every person who, these days, has the great responsibility of directing, creating, inspiring public opinion, must take his responsibility more deeply than ever before. We have reached the hour which some of us for many years have been predicting, which I have spoken of repeatedly and repeatedly and repeatedly from this pulpit Sunday after Sunday, Sunday evening after Sunday evening for ten years, we have come to the place now as a people, as a Church, as a nation, as a civilization, where mere passion and emotion can help us no more, blind, extravagant, emotional upheavals of thoughtless phrases and ill-considered words must have no place. The sobriety of honest and courageous thinking is now the essential. We can depend no more upon the sophistries of pseudo thinkers and upon the atrocities of paid-for propaganda. Every man who speaks these days must be willing to face a barrage of honest questions, and every man, be he senator or professor, preacher or editor, review commentator or writer, we must ask him who he is, we must ask him who is paying his bill, we must ask him whom he represents, we must ask his affiliations, we must ask him to what society, to what organization he belongs, we must ask him where he derives the right of his propaganda. Americans must now demand from all who seek to influence us either in international or national affairs, that they must be able to stand the white, penetrating glare of honest purpose and of uncorrupted sources! If this is not our way, then we are lost, for there is more propaganda, which I am specifically going to treat two weeks from this morning, being given to the people of this country today under all sorts of guises, all sorts of hidden motives, all sorts of international complications, which the American people have a right to know. We have federal laws being violoted by the hour, laws which are already on the Statute Books of this Republic, requiring the registration of all foreign protagonists of foreign systems and foreign ways in the United States of America, and that law is being flaunted in the faces of the American people. I ask you quietly, without an appeal to emotion or the passions of the human heart, **that we think carefully, that we talk wisely, and**

that we act courageously, for now it may be, IT MAY BE, that we are rapidly approaching an hour in human destiny—IT MAY BE—when everything sacred to you and to me may be endangered.

The individual who says 'I told you so' is not usually attractive or liked. Personally, I don't care for the people who come to me and say 'I told you so,' most of us don't like the 'I told you so' people and I the very least would want or anticipate your ill-will. I am going to re-preach a sermon soon, a sermon I preached nearly three years ago, in which I predicted at that moment the present lineup between Russia and Germany. And three years ago after I preached that sermon I received 500 letters of condemnation and criticism, telling me that I did not know what I was talking about. The Communists wrote by the twenties and said 'You are just crazy!' and sometimes I think I am — the Fascists, the Nazis, the pro-Germans and the pro-Hitlerites wrote voluminously. Hitler and Stalin? Jew hater uniting with Stalin when we have been told that the Communists of Russia were all Jews and that Jews and Communists were synonymous?' They wrote to me and said: 'Doctor Bradley, how can you be so presumptuous! It shows how little you know about international affairs!'

Now, ladies and gentlemen, believe me, for I am deeply and sincerely human and always want to remain so, when this thing happened—I hope some of those people who wrote me are listening this morning or are here because you are between the devil and the deep sea—and yet it is not so surprising, when Mr. Browder and Mr. Fritz Kuhn, two of our distinguished fellow citizens in these United States of America get together, for one became a United States citizen by hiding his criminal record in Germany, and the other in the past few days has admitted that he traveled on forged passes. People like that don't find much difficulty getting together, so I say something more, the next in line is Japan, Japan and Russia will bury the hatchet in one of the mightiest combinations of military strength modern, if not ancient, history has ever seen. Ah, is civilization doomed?

Two weeks ago this morning I sat in my little one-room study among the pines and cedars of a little island on a lovely lake; it was early morning, I had been up most of the night listening to the radio. A voice, well modulated, unusually calm in an epoch-making moment, said through the loud speaker of my radio in my little study, 'A state of war now exists between Great Britain and Germany.' A few hours later I heard Edouard Daladier making the same pronouncement. Skies so blue, our little forest feathered friends were chirping their last farewell to the dying summer preparing for their long journey to the Southland. I was in France in 1914 when the first one happened, and I said, 'Again, again, this thing has come, this ghastly futile thing called WAR!' 'Now,' I said, 'what shall I do this fall, what shall I say when I get back to my people and pulpit, what shall I say on the air? How can I keep my consistency?' I have stood for peace, and hate war with every ounce of blood in my body. It may cost me a great deal sometime to say what I am going to say here. Not this morning, my country is at peace. There will be many who will disagree and criticize, that is quite all right, but these words which are being taken down for permanent preservation may rise up some day in some court martial or treason trial in some prosecution by a government which has lost its freedom and become a dictatorship, which this country would be in twenty-four hours if it goes to war!

It is Constitution Day. One hundred and fifty-two years ago today, the brilliant minds of the Constitutionalists adopted that document. Today is Constitution

Sunday and I wish I had a national hook-up. God, it is remarkable to me the men who can get national hook-ups in an hour of national emergency while others are denied that great opportunity because they refuse to play upon the passions and hatreds of people. That I cannot do, and that I shall not do, but I say on this Constitution Sunday, on this anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States of America that that Constitution will be torn into a myriad shreds on the morning that America declares war! There will not be a shred of it left! Your free speech will be gone! Your peaceable assembly will be gone! Free press will be gone! Your radio will be gone! It is time Americans realize the peril to their own liberty and democracy at home, AT HOME! You came into the Church this morning—I walked out of my pulpit a few moments ago and looked at you, this beautiful Church, this great congregation, I sensed the presence of each beating heart of the hundreds here today, I could even sense it in the air of my listeners everywhere. You are looking into my face, you are saying to me, 'Dr. Bradley, don't fail us, don't disappoint us, we believe in you, we are with you, we stand with you, don't fail us now.' Not a person in this congregation this morning carried a gasmask, not one of you, you haven't got one on a strap over your shoulder or carrying it in your hands, not one of you in this Church now. Your hearts are not fearful that at any moment a bomb may come and split the rafters of these mighty steel girders and that they will fall upon you and crush you into a bleeding pulp, a mass of blood and bone! You are not worried, of course you are not. On my way to the service this morning as we skirted the west side of Lincoln Park, little children, little children in the go-carts, playing with their kiddy-cars on the park walks, laughing, happy. I looked at those little children, then I thought all the way to Church, there is not a little child in all London! Imagine what it would mean in a city like Chicago not to see a little child anywhere, and in Warsaw, while I am speaking, there isn't anyone left but old people, the little children have gone, many of them dead. The youth are in the war at each other's throat, and there's just the old people left while the skies rain their fury upon them. Why, why? To satisfy the personal ambitions of egomaniacs the youth and the aged of the world must pay, and pay, and pay.

Yes, civilization is doomed, doomed, but for one thing; doomed but for this truth and every hour of it, every moment of it, when the Hannibals wept and the Alexanders sighed, and the Czars trembled and the Charlemagnes walked triumphantly, and the Napoleons strutted, civilization doomed but for one thing. There has always been and there will always be some prophet of the soul, some spiritual genius of an age, some crusader of a new day, some prophet of a new earth who with his back up against the stone wall of the world's hate, or his head dropping into the basket of the guilliotine, or his hands torn by the nails of a cross, there will always be a poet, a dreamer, a prophet, and when the dictators and the absolutists and the racial hatreds and the religious fighters and the barriers and bombs and the bursting of shell and those who in the name of patriotism would destroy freedom by creating hatreds, racial and religious, among us in America, that we take the highway, there will be those who at every cost will raise their faces toward God! That's the hope of this hour!

Listen! There are no raid sirens, no blackouts, no dugouts, you will not be afraid when you leave in a moment. Your home will be there when you go back. You have something so infinitely precious, my fellow citizens, don't trade it for a mess of pottage of

prosperity! Don't let Americans unemployed go back to work, don't let relief rolls wither, don't let these things happen in the name of our own prosperity at the expense of European agony and blood shed for our fellowmen! If you do, you will lose the way! Mark that word, as I gave it another three years ago—YOU WILL LOSE THE WAY!

Follow this carefully, this closing suggestion, a couple of sentences. The announcer of an international broadcast the other evening speaking from Berlin to the United States, said this at the conclusion of his broadcast: 'Good night, lucky America. So-long'."

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THE WOMAN'S CLUB

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The Woman's Club of The Peoples Church will open its twenty-seventh season with a Tea in Channing Hall, Monday, October 9th at two o'clock. Mrs. E. A. Peirce, president, and Mrs. Preston Bradley, honorary president, will greet the members and guests. Dr. Bradley will be the speaker of the afternoon. The musical program will be given by the Elliot Trio, comprised of: Margery Elliot, pianist and winner of the musical contest of the Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs; Selma Olmsted, soprano and Margaret Abby, violinist. They will present a program in costume of both trio and solo numbers. Coffee, tea and cake will be served at the close of the program.

The Woman's Club has scheduled a "Rummage Sale" for November 4th. Donations of any kind suitable for this sale will be greatly appreciated. Mrs. W. A. Stehle, chairman of the Rummage Sale, will accept any donations. Mrs. Stehle's phone is "Hollycourt 1713."

Now that the Fall season has opened it will not be a far step to the Bazaar! Keep it in mind when planning your Christmas shopping! The dates are December 7th and 8th.

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THE UPTOWN PLAYERS

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On Sunday afternoon, October first, The Uptown Players of The Peoples Church opened their thirteenth season with a Drama-Tea in Channing Hall. Mrs. Sturkow-Ryder, concert pianist, was the distinguished guest artist of the afternoon. Mr. J. Bradley-Griffiin, director of The Uptown Players, gave his dramatic reading of "The American Way," the thrilling drama on Americanism still playing to capacity houses in New York. Mr. Bradley-Griffin has given his dramatic version of this timely play in several colleges and clubs this fall and always his audiences react with great enthusiasm. It is the kind of propaganda—if one wants to call it that—that should be heard in every state and country of the United States. Special music accompanying the play has been arranged by Philip Jorgensen, organist of The Peoples Church. There was a large and appreciative audience present in Channing Hall Sunday afternoon. Dr. Bradley was introduced at the opening of the program by the president of The Players, Mr. Leslie Walker. Dr. Bradley congratulated the group on the opening of their season and spoke for a few moments of the sincere work of The Uptown Players and

their steady progress through the years, and the importance of the little theatre in keeping alive the art of the theatre today. Tea and cake was served following the program. These Drama-Teas that The Players give the first Sunday of each month are a very pleasant part of the social side of the Church, when members and friends of the Church as well as the Players are invited to listen to very excellent programs and spend a social hour together afterwards. During the winter months many remain on for the evening service in the Church.

The Uptown Players announce their first play to open the season will be "Dangerous Corners" by J. B. Priestly. It will be presented at The Chicago Woman's Club Theatre, 72 East 11th Street, Friday and Saturday evenings, October 13th and 14th. The cast includes: Helen Williams, Lenore Brown, Althea Murphy and Carroll York.

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THE YOUNG PEOPLES' CLUB

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The Young Peoples Club of The Peoples Church held their opening meeting of the season Monday evening, October 2nd in Channing Hall. All the young men and young women interested in The Peoples Church should have membership in this organization. Every Sunday morning the Church lobby is full of young people, to judge from their number, if they became affiliated with this Church club, it would be the largest groups of young people in the city. And that is what it should be.

A very fine audience greeted Dr. Bradley when he spoke Monday evening on the subject: "What Youth Can Do in a World Like This." Rogers Miller, president of the club presided. Following the program refreshments were served and a pleasant social hour enjoyed by all.

The club is planning an interesting program for the winter meetings. Election of officers will take place at the next meeting.

Bazaar Donations

There is one event held by The Peoples Church in which everyone who desires to may have a helping hand. The Annual Church Bazaar is to be held on December 7th and 8th under the auspices of the Woman's Club, and gives an opportunity to members, radio listeners and friends to do their part in making it a financial and social success. Have you planned your donation for the bazaar? There is a place for everything.

This is the season when housewives are filling the fruit pantry with numerous glasses of jelly, marmalade, jam, pickles, preserves. These old-fashioned homey things have become quite a fad again. Reserve a little space on a shelf and mark it "Peoples Church Bazaar"—then place there a few glasses—or jars—of the delicious things you "put up"—and when the time comes send them for the "Pantry Booth" at the bazaar. There will be booths for pillow slips, towels, luncheon sets, kitchen articles of all kinds, plants, baked goods, quilts, pillows, handkerchiefs, fancy articles, knitted things, aprons—and don't forget the "White Elephant Booth." If you have some article in your home that you have tired of, or that does not please your taste, the White Elephant will accept it, and sell it. There is always someone who wants what you do not want! That's funny, isn't it? But it's true. Proceeds from the bazaar go to the Church to be used for philanthropic and other purposes under advice of the Board of Trustees. —G.T.B.

Doctor Bradley Kept the Following Engagements During the Month of September, 1939

17—Opening service — Peoples Church.
Address. 60th Anniversary of Keeley Institute, Dwight, Illinois.
20—Annual Address. Chicago Lawndale Lodge, Palmer House.
21—Address. Chicago Kiwanis Club, Sherman Hotel.
Address. Hyde Park High School, re: Dedication of Plaque to Amelia Earhardt.
22—Meeting. Illinois Normal School Board, Congress Hotel.
24—Service. Peoples Church.
25—Board Meeting. Peoples Church.
27—Radio Address. WBBM.
28—Radio Address. WBBM.
Address. Presbyterian Theological School.
20—Meeting, Executive Board Izaak Walton League of America, Hotel Sherman.

CHRISTENINGS

14—Sally Grace Gruben, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Gruben at Arden, Minnesota.
17—William Allen Crosswhite, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crosswhite.
24—Diane Alyce Daggett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Verne P. Daggett.

FUNERALS

16—Mrs. May Randlett—Cremation.
20—Mrs. Catherine Newton. Interment, Rosehill.
29—Mrs. Josephine Jones. Interment, Rosehill.

WEDDINGS

16—Harold Eltof and Anna Haitz
20—J. Harry Hamilton and Mara Raven
23—Arthur Wm. Ehrhart and Grace May Holland

28—Francis Glenn and Lola Kurz
30—Titus Haffa and Ethel R. Seeland
30—Russel D. Morgan and Helen M. Waloway

• • •

REV. HENRY CLARK, SUMMER ASSISTANT TO DR. BRADLEY OFFICIATED AT THE FOLLOWING WEDDINGS:

2—Richard Lakins and Avis Mathews
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• • •

DR. BRADLEY'S BROADCASTS

The weekly broadcasts of Dr. Bradley are every Wednesday evening at 9:30, and every Thursday evening at 9:00 on WBBM. The broadcasts will cover a discussion of national and international affairs. While this is a sponsored program, Dr. Bradley follows his traditional custom of not submitting anything he says to anyone prior to its delivery on the air. His discussions are free from prejudice or intolerance. Radio friends are invited to tune in to the weekly broadcast and to inform their friends of the schedule.

• • •

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES

The Sunday evening services of The Peoples Church will resume on Sunday evening, November 12, at 7:30. These services will run until Easter. This will be the 12th year of these services; they have always been the most largely attended Sunday evening church service in Chicago. The average attendance last year was nearly 2,000 people. Because of some changes in our auditorium, our seating capacity has been increased, and a new RCA amplification sound system has been installed which will make it possible for nearly 2500 people to hear the service. The Chorus Choir sings at every service and Dr. Bradley delivers the sermon. The cosmopolitan character of the congregations affirms the city-wide interest in these services. Kindly reserve Sunday evening, November 12th, and plan to attend the opening service.

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BOOK LECTURES

The Seventh Season of the nationally known Book Lectureship given by Dr. Preston Bradley very Wednesday evening, from November through April, will be resumed on Wednesday evening, November 1st, at 8:00 o'clock in the church auditorium. The list of books to be discussed for the month will be announced from the pulpit.

These lectures are the most largely attended regular book lectures in the United States. The lectures begin promptly at 8:00 o'clock and close promptly at 9:00. There is no admission to the lectures, all seats are free and everyone is invited. Kindly reserve the date for the opening lecture and invite your friends. With but few exceptions the books selected are all modern and the whole field of literature is covered.

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DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF THE PEOPLES CHURCH

"The purpose of the church is to deal in plain terms with the supreme things in human life as measured by the rational conclusions of science and history. It seeks to promote a conception of nature, history and the meaning of life in accordance with the facts of experience and with the progress of growing knowledge. It is essentially religious, not in the traditional but in the scientific and ethical sense of the word. It regards religion as spiritual energy directing itself toward the enrichment of the individual life and the perfection of the social order. This church assumes the right of every one to think his or her own thoughts, and expects the greatest progress to follow from entire intellectual liberty and perfect freedom of judgment. It welcomes to its membership all who wish to co-operate in making a world which shall be enlightened by knowledge, guided by reason and animated by good-will."

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Published monthly by The Peoples Church.
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Grace Thayer Bradley .....
Associate Editor
Mrs. Thos. A. Harrison .....
..... Subscription Mgr.
941 Lawrence Ave. Longbeach 6878
Published monthly by
The Peoples Church, 941 Lawrence Av.
Office of Publication
7028 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill.

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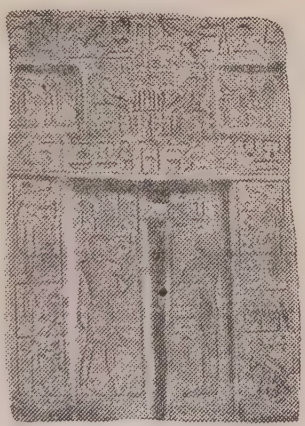

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